



## Elmer "Tom" Ernest Eckart

June 17, 1925 - June 14, 2022

Elmer "Tom" Ernest Eckart  
(June 17, 1925-June 14, 2022)

Just before his 97th birthday, Elmer "Tom" Eckart of Shoreview, MN died peacefully acknowledging that "I've had a good life" and "I know where I am going."

He was born in Harvey, North Dakota to Jacob Jr. and Lena Putz Eckart, and lived his growing up years in Martin, North Dakota. After high school he attended Fargo Business College and in WWII joined the Army Air Corp, trained as a navigator, followed by the U.S. Air Force Reserve retiring with the rank of major.

His working career was in Chicago IL as a carpenter, contractor, and commercial remodeler. After retirement and moving to Minnesota, he graduated from Lakewood (Century) College. He was a dedicated volunteer with Gideons International distributing Bibles as his way of spreading God's Word plus meeting with local pastors to inform them of this organization's work; with AARP Taxaide assisting low income and the elderly with their taxes; and with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity as a worker, teacher, and supervisor. Also, he consistently volunteered with the churches he belonged to in 3 states over the years which included prison ministries; using his knowledge as a carpenter to repair, remodel, and improve the church buildings; serving meals at a homeless shelter; distributing meals to children in their school backpacks who needed food support, and driving people to

appointments, events, and church services.

Locally, he has been a member of Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 W. County Rd. C2, in Roseville, Minnesota, where his Memorial service will be held Tuesday, June 28, 2022: 1pm Visitation, 2pm Service, 3pm Reception.

Preceded in death by his wife Mildred and his sister, Helen Mae.

Survived by his daughter Alexa (Mark) Umbreit, granddaughters Jen Patterson and Laura Umbreit; great grandchildren Myles Patterson, Jade Patterson, and Sophie Tirati; his brothers James Eckart and Rodney (Kathryn) Eckart; his sister Elaine Edinger; many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Interment will be at the Bradford Cemetery in Bradford TN where his wife Mildred is buried.

Memorial donations are welcome at the organizations Elmer supported (or donor's choice); Gideons International ([gideons.org](http://gideons.org)), Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity ([tchabitat.org](http://tchabitat.org)), Centennial United Methodist ([centennialumc.org](http://centennialumc.org))

# Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Elmer "Tom" Ernest Eckart



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December 14, 2023 at 06:23 PM



“ We were so sad to hear of Toms passing He was a very sweet man . We were so happy to have met him and Mildred .. Again so sorry to know he has passed. But now He and Mldred are together again  
Love Jeff and Linda Bledsoe  
Thank You to Toms daughter Alexa for letting us know about Toms Passing

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**Jeff and Linda Bledsoe** - November 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Hello! My sincere condolences to the family of Elmer Eckart. My mother was Irene Eckart Keple Huxtable. If I'm not mistaken my mom was Elmer's aunt even though she was only 1 year older. She was the youngest sister to Jake. Before mom passed away in Nov 2016, Elmer kept in constant contact with her. She loved to receive his letters & kept them to read over and over. She held fond memories of him very dear to her heart. After she passed, he continued to keep in contact with me every Christmas. I tried to contact him via FB not long ago, but didn't received a response. I'm sorry I didn't pursue. Even though I only met him once or twice, I feel as though I knew him through the stories I heard from mom. You all were very blessed to have such a kind, gentle, loving man in your lives. May your sweet memories live on in your hearts forever. Sincerely, Susan Keple Blair

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**Susan Keple Blair** - July 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ I got to know "Granpda Tom" through my friendship with Laura and knew him to be a wonderfully kind person. Over the years I noticed that he was calm and steadfast. He seemed to always be in exactly the right place at the right time and what I'm certain seemed like a small act of kindness to him was magnificent to recipient. What I will remember most about him is that he had a peaceful spirit and brought a quiet contentment where ever he was.



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**Camille King** - June 27, 2022 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ Tom will always be remembered as a true Christian who "walked the talk"!

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**Erma Comstock** - June 27, 2022 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Tom was a very wise and loved man. I will always be grateful to him for his words of comfort after my husband passed and his help up at my cabin. He was one of those people who left the world a better place.

Carole J White - June 27, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MT

“ Sending love and support to your family. Alexa, your dad's service to others is an inspiration for us all to follow.



Michelle Thelen - June 27, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SU

“ Tom was such a wonderful human being. We really enjoyed visiting with him (and Scott golfing with him) when he was spending some winter time in Arizona. Our condolences to his family and many friends. A live well lived for sure!

Scott & Bert Umbreit - June 27, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MU

“ Tom was a very kind, gentle, loving person and extremely helpful to all his family and so many others. He was far more than my "father in-law." He was truly my father. My own Dad died in 1978. Tom has been part of my life for the past 52+ years. His presence and the energy of his spiritual and emotional being is where we were connected. It had very little to do with words, for we saw and experienced the world very differently. We respected each other's differences. I will miss my Father dearly.

Mark Umbreit - June 26, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ I will miss you , you where a great brother and guide.

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**james j Eckart** - June 26, 2022 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ In honor of a great but humble man who made this world a better place and his awesome daughter who followed in his footsteps



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**Kathleen Bradshaw** - June 26, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ It was a pleasure to know you Tom! Rest easy friend.



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**David Kelvie** - June 26, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Truly, a life well lived!



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**Jim Taylor** - June 26, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BV

“ Dear Alexa, Bob and I are so sorry for the loss of your dad, and at the same time grateful for his long, generous and happy life. We're so glad we got to know him over the years. Please know we will keep all of you who grieve him in our thoughts and prayers.



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**Betty Vos** - June 26, 2022 at 12:00 AM

VB

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, may all of your beautiful memories sustain you in these difficult days. Much love.  
Vickie Barnum



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**Vickie Barnum** - June 26, 2022 at 12:00 AM

“ My Memories of my Grandfather



*Grandpa was generous with everyone he encountered whether they were strangers or people he was close to. He always thought of others before thinking of himself, this was part of his essence. This is what guided him throughout his life. He would much rather give up his own comforts if that would help someone in need, someone who was less fortunate and I watched him do this on many occasions.*

*He took care of everyone and not just his immediate family. He was a caretaker of colleagues, neighbors, people at his church, friends, children of his friends, people he didn't know, people who were less fortunate than himself.*

*In my eyes, he was a super hero who could fix anything or heal anyone. He had a strong mechanical knowledge of construction, engineering, electrical and plumbing systems and what made things work. We came to him with all sorts of damaged objects and most of the time he was able to restore them. Grandpa also had an emotional intelligence and sense of empathy more than the average human. He was a healer for many broken people in his life, he had this way to heal and comfort people without using many words.*

*Grandpa had a gentle spirit. He never judged anyone and never said a bad word about anyone. He was kind in his thoughts, actions and words. He knew I had tragedies in my life and with compassion, he supported me through them.*

*I adored Grandpa and he adored me too. He always understood me and he always accepted me even if he didn't approve of my beliefs or choices.*

*I noticed how he was always elegant in how he presented himself but never exaggerated. There was a sort of understated elegance in*

*his dress, his demeanor and his movements.*

*Grandpa was always pragmatic and thinking of ways to solve problems. He looked for efficiency and asked himself "how can I make this work better?". He loved to improve things. He took things one step at a time and was never impatient.*

*Grandpa was very creative. He envisioned solutions and upgrades that we didn't even know existed. I was always amazed to watch him do this. When I was a child and I spent hours in his workshop, I believed Grandpa was a magician and could create anything with his hands. I was a bit demanding, I gave him lots of instructions to materialize my projects and he would magically make them appear.*

*He knew that success requires hard-work and a lot of patience. Grandpa was never discouraged by set-backs, he stuck to his vision.*

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**Laura Umbreit** - June 24, 2022 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ *What a wonderful person and giving person. Tom was such a gentle and caring man in all he did. He was a wonderful dad and grandfather. He could make or fix anything!!!! Tom has left a loving legacy for all his family and all who knew and loved him.*



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**Penny and Alan Leupold** - June 24, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *Beautiful tribute for your Dad. Alexa, you and family did a great job. Blessings and love to you as you move through yet another grief process. With all love, Barb*

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**Barb Schommer** - June 24, 2022 at 12:00 AM



“ *Elmer will always be in our memories. We had some good times together at the lake and cousins' reunions.* ”

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**Clyde Neubauer** - June 23, 2022 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ My grandpa showed me by his example & presence what it looked like to be a genuinely good person. He was a strong, loving, gentle, hardworking & loyal man. He was always level-headed, even-tempered & kind- never speaking a judgmental word about anyone.

He was happy to use his many skills to help others & was my go to person for anything I needed help figuring out or fixing. His last "project" was helping me hang a mirror in my new condo- just a few weeks before his passing.

He never wavered from this- it was who & how he was 100% of the time. He didn't talk about how he was a good person & didn't expect any recognition for just being who he was. He just lived his life as the good man that he was- every moment, with every person he encountered, without exception.

Unlike my grandpa, I am a very blunt & direct person, but this never got in the way of the closeness & connection between us. There were times when I know he didn't understand or agree with me, but he would just look at me with those kind & loving eyes, as if to say, "I don't agree, but that doesn't matter because I love you & respect you unconditionally". He occasionally offered a few words of wisdom, but never told me I "should", "shouldn't" or "have to" do anything (which I always appreciated).

My grandpa didn't talk a lot, but when he did say something, his words had a lot of meaning to me- because he was a man of integrity who lived what he was saying. When he did speak, it was always sincere & from a place of love.

He was curious, inquisitive & enjoyed experiencing new things throughout his life. This didn't change as he got older- from going skydiving for his 85th birthday to buying an electric car for his 95th. He enjoyed life & this made him very enjoyable to be around.

Most of the time, he just looked very content- with a twinkle in his

*eyes & a slight smile on his face. It was a contentment that came from within- not because of any external circumstances. Because of this, he maintained a calm, patient, loving & peaceful presence throughout all the ups & downs in his life & in our family.*

*I feel very blessed to have had this man in my life for 47 years. Every time I think of him now, I see that twinkle in his eyes & little smile on his face & it makes me smile & feel his presence.*

*Love you grandpa!!*

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**Jen Patterson** - June 23, 2022 at 12:00 AM